THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that 76 producers and agencies were continuously delaying payment.

(c) Rs. 3.60 crores has been recovered In 52 cases, legal action has been resorted to.

(d) Sixty four companies have been denied permission for their programmes. Twelve companies are making payment in instalment against their outstanding dues and their programmes are being telecast on advance payment.

Initiatives in Entertainment Sector

2104. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are heading for a significant change and to bring new initiatives in the entertainment sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether Government propose to increase the FDI in FM and to bring it at par with the print and electronic media; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has taken several initiatives to bring about changes in the entertainment sector in the interest of the overall development of this sector. Access to institutional and bank financing has been facilitated for the entertainment industry, including films, Foreign Direct Investment policy for the film sector has been liberalized and international visibility has been afforded to Indian films by participation in global markets.

Apart from these, in order to suggest a policy framework for the entertainment industry, both at the centre and the States, a Committee

for Development of the Entertainment Sector has been set up. The Committee had given its first set of recommendations which, including a recommendation to fix a ceiling of 60% on entertainment tax, rates. An anti-piracy training programme was also organized for police officers based on the recommendations of the Committee, which is expected to be the precursor of many such training programmes.

In its recent meeting the Committee has made recommendations, mainly relating to a further education in entertainment tax rates to 45%, appointment of a nodal officer in each State for assisting in anti-piracy matters and facilitating a single point clearance by State Governments for foreign film crews shooting in India. The second set of recommendations of the Committee have also been persuasively circulated to State Governments.

In order to bring about a receptive investment regime in the entertainment sector, within India, a Committee has recently been setup to suggest a strategy to facilitate the flow of venture capital into the sector.

The Government had also constituted a Committee to make recommendations for Radio Broadcasting.

(c) and (d) The recommendations submitted to the Government, by the Committee headed by Dr. Amit Mitra, include, *inter alia,* the issue of foreign direct investment in private FM radio. These recommendations are available on the Ministry's website *http./www.mib.nic.in.*

Introduction of DD News Channel

2105. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced the DD News Channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the viewing rate of the DD News Channel *vis-a-vis* the other private News Channels; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the viewership of the DD News Channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b)